

*a*² Delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 24-28 and replace it with the following:

--Fluorescence polarization is fully described and defined in United States Patent 5,786,139 issued to Burke et al. and incorporated herein by reference. Fluorescence anisotropy can also be used to measure the binding. Like polarization values, it is calculated from the emission intensity in the horizontal and vertical planes. It can be substituted for polarization with a standard mathematical correction. --

*a*² Delete the paragraph spanning page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 14 and replace it with the following:

--The method and kit include the use of a light-emitting compound which is used as a label. The present invention utilizes fluorescence polarization techniques to quantify fluorescence light-emitting characteristics. Fluorescence-emitting compounds include any compound having appropriate fluorescence characteristics for use with the invention. One can determine whether or not a particular fluorescence emitting compound is suitable for the present invention by comparing the candidate compound with those compounds illustrated in the Examples. If the candidate compound performs a required function such that a successful detection and quantification can be obtained, similar to the compounds used in this application, the compound is suitable for use with this invention. Potential fluorescence-emitting compounds for use in the invention include, for example, the fluorescence-emitting hormones: THC-ester, THC-ketone, and THC-amide. In the preferred embodiments the THC-ester renamed ES1 for the purposes of this application, is used as the fluormone. Several appropriate estrogen receptor ligands which act as fluormones are described in Hwang et. al. Biochemistry 31:11536-45, 1992, incorporated

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herein by reference. Other fluorescence-emitting labels useable with this method and the process of their attachment to nucleic acids is fully described and defined in United States Patent 5,786,139 issued to Burke et al. and incorporated herein by reference. []

C Delete the paragraph on page 17, lines 27-29 and replace it with the following:

[] Black, round bottom microtiter plates for use in the multiwell fluorescence polarization instrument (Dynex Technologies, Inc., Chantilly, VA) or disposable 6 x 50 mm borosilicate test tubes, certified for use with the Analyzer. []

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IN THE CLAIMS

C Cancel claims 9-12 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-4 and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for measuring the ability of a compound to affect the binding of molecules to a steroid hormone receptor, comprising:
 - a. providing a solution comprising a fluorescence-emitting compound that binds to the steroid hormone receptor at a first domain; a fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid that binds to the steroid hormone receptor at a second domain; and the steroid hormone receptor;
 - b. measuring the fluorescence polarization of said fluorescence-emitting compound and said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid present in the solution from step a) at excitation and emission wavelengths corresponding to the excitation and emission

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A marked-up version of the amendments to the claims showing deletions by strikethrough and additions by underlining is attached hereto as Exhibit B.